Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph on page 5, lines 9-12, as follows:

Symbolically, assume a building has ~~N floors and m sectors~~T floors and S sectors, with sector sizes of f_1, f_2,..., ~~f_m. Define $F=(f_1+f+\ldots+f_m)/m$.~~ f_S. Define $F=(f_1+f_2+\ldots+f_S)/S$. According to this example, a nearly contiguous arrangement would be any sector grouping that is no more than the smallest integer greater than or equal to F/2 away from a contiguous sector grouping.

Please replace the paragraph on page 5, lines 13-20, as follows:

One example includes a building having twenty floors (~~i.e., N=20~~i.e., T=20). There are four sectors (~~i.e., m=4~~i.e., S=4). The number of floors f within the four sectors are as follows: f_1 = 5, f_2 = 6, f_3 = 4, f_4 = 7. Accordingly, F = (5+6+4+7)/ 4=5.5. F/2 = 2.75, therefore, the smallest integer greater than or equal to 2.75 is 3. In this example, any arrangement that is not more than three interchanges from a fully contiguous arrangement of sectors satisfies the example criteria. In this example, there are overlapping sectors. In instances where there are non-overlapping sectors, ~~F=N/m~~F=T/S.

Please replace the paragraph on page 5, lines 20-26, as follows:

Another technique designed according to this invention includes using top-weighted sectoring. This is shown, for example, in Figure 3. In this example there are four sectors, S_1, S_2, S_3 and S_4, with four floors per sector. This technique can be implemented by following the strategy where there are S sectors and F floors per sector. Grouping the top F -1 floors with the S^{th} floor establishes a sector. The next sector includes the next highest unassigned F -1 floors and the S -1^{th} floor (e.g., using the highest unassigned F-1 floors with the (S-m)th floor, where m is the number of already established sectors out of the total S sectors). This process is repeated until all floors are allocated into a sector.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, lines 27-31, as follows:

In the example of Figure 3, there are four sectors (S=4) and four floors per sector (F=4). The first sector S_1 is assigned to the top three (i.e., ~~4-1) floors. The~~ 4-1=3) floors and the fourth floor (i.e., floor 5 in the illustration). The second sector S_2 includes the next available three top floors and the floor beneath the fourth floor (i.e., floor 4 in the illustration). Similarly, the third and fourth sectors are assigned in order.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 26 – page 7, line 5, as follows:

Assume an example where a building has C elevator cars and ~~f floors~~T floors. The floors are originally grouped into preliminary, contiguous sectors of contiguous floors where the ~~j~~th ~~contiguous~~ jth contiguous sector begins at floor $(start)_j$ and ends at floor $(end)_j$. Assume that t of the C cars will serve the j^{th} preliminary, contiguous sector. Then, a K-modulus sectoring dispatching grouping and car assignment entails the following:

t is greater than or equal ~~to k~~to K;

the car C_i, where i equals 1, 2, … ~~k, has~~t, has an assigned sub-channel consisting of those floors where i = floor number (~~mod k~~mod K), restricted to being between floors $(start)_j$ and $(end)_j$; and

if t is greater ~~than k~~than K, the cars numbered greater ~~than k~~ than K are assigned to handle the same floors in the sector if and only if i =j (~~mod k~~mod K).

Please replace the paragraph on page 7, lines 6-7, as follows:

It should be noted that in an example where ~~k=1~~K=1, the result would provide contiguous sectors.

Please replace the paragraph on page 7, lines 8-14, as follows:

As a numerical example, assume there are twelve cars in a building and 40 floors (i.e., C=12 and ~~f=40~~T=40). Assume the building floors are grouped into four preliminary, contiguous sectors with the first sector including floors 1-10, the second sector including floors 11-28, the third sector including floors 29-34 and the fourth sector including floors 34-40. Let j=2, so that we consider the second sector (i.e., floors 11-28). This provides $(start)_2$=11 and $(end)_2$=28. Assume further that six of the twelve cars will service this particular preliminary sector (t=6).

Please replace the paragraph on page 7, lines 15-20, as follows:

In an example including the just-described four preliminary sectors and where K=3, car C_1 handles calls to and from floors 13, 16, 19, 22, 25 and 28 as each of these floor numbers have a remainder of 1 (the subscript of the car number) when divided by three (which is the value of K). Similarly, the car C_2 handles calls to and from floors 11, 14, 17, 20, 23 and 26. The car C_3 handles calls to and from floors 12, 15, 18, 21, 24 and 27. The floors assigned to each car establish non-contiguous sectors.

Please replace the paragraph on page 7, lines 21-23, as follows:

In this example, t is greater ~~than k~~ than K so that car C_4 handles the same floors as car C_1 since 4=1 (mod 3). Similarly, the car C_5 handles the same floors as car C_2 and car C_6 handles the same floors as C_3.